

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

NOVEMBER 18, 2008

In Los Angeles County, rates for many sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are much higher among African American women and Latinas. Chlamydia rates are almost 10 times higher for African American women than white women. Latinas are also experiencing disproportionately higher rates of Chlamydia, at almost five times the rate of White women. These rates and disparities are even higher for younger women. Left untreated, Chlamydia may lead to serious complications, including infertility and chronic pain. Many STDs are silent, in that they cause few symptoms, and many STDs can be diagnosed *only* through testing, yet routine screening is not widespread. In addition, access to Pap screening, a critical preventive health service for women, is hindered among women using public health services because such services are often located in a separate location from STD clinics. With regular screening tests and follow-up, cervical cancer is a preventable disease.

All individuals in the County should have appropriate access to the full range of reproductive services, including but not limited to prenatal care, contraceptive care including timely access to emergency contraception, comprehensive sexual health education, and screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. Unfortunately, the data on STDs and infant mortality paint a picture of continued disparities and unequal access.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

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PAGE TWO**

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work in concert with:

1. The Directors of Public Health and Health Services to identify opportunities to improve our systems of care so that for example, women seeking services through a Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic receive basic reproductive health services such as Pap tests, without having to schedule an appointment and go to a separate clinic in another facility; and
2. The Directors of Public Health and Health Services, and Internal Services Departments work together to increase the visibility of public health campaigns by utilizing space in County buildings to publicize them. This would assist us in getting key messages and education on screening for cancer, sexually transmitted diseases and other public health issues to clients, health professionals and others visiting L.A. County facilities.

I, FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the CEO and Directors to report back to the Board within 60 days on the above actions.

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